

Book Reviews

are good ones and should be taken seriously by anyone who approaches this sticky subject.

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Philipp Gutmann, *Zur Reifizierung des Sexuellen im 19. Jahrhundert. Der Beginn einer Scientia sexualis, dargestellt anhand dreier Texte von Hermann Joseph Löwenstein, Joseph Häussler und Heinrich Kaan*, Marburger Schriften zur Medizingeschichte, Band 38, Frankfurt am Main, Peter Lang, 1998, pp. 231, £25.00, DM 69.00, \$39.95 (3-631-33686-1).

This doctoral thesis was written by a German doctor and psychologist under the supervision of the medical historian Sigusch. It falls into two parts: in the first several introductory chapters put the work of three nineteenth-century authors on sexuality (Hermann Joseph Löwenstein, 1823, Joseph Häussler, 1826, and Heinrich Kaan, 1844) into their historical context. It also gives a summary of the three works discussed. The second consists of the translations from Latin into German of Löwenstein's and Kaan's works (Häussler's book was published in German). These are the first full translations of these works from the Latin and they take up a total of 138 pages of the thesis.

With the publication of this second part alone, Philipp Gutmann does indeed do a great favour to every historian interested in the history of sexuality. Not only were Löwenstein's dissertation on sexual deviations and Kaan's often quoted book *Psychopathia sexualis* linguistically inaccessible to many, they are also difficult to find in libraries. Making these seminal sources accessible is of great help.

The first part of the thesis adds some useful remarks, although it tends to stay on a very general level. For example, in the

summary of the theoretical history of medicine of the nineteenth century in 8 pages it uses exclusively the standard histories of medicine, such as Ackerknecht's *Short history of psychiatry*. This section seems therefore to address a more general audience who would be unlikely to read the thesis. The chapter on the summaries of the three works described is useful for a brief overview of Löwenstein's, Häussler's and Kaan's opinions, although it inevitably contains Gutmann's categories and judgements. What I found laudable and impressive is that the author discovered some new facts on the life of Heinrich Kaan (pp. 26–8) using local Austrian archives as well as obscure regional journals (*Ischler Wochenblatt*).

The thesis is written in a clear and agreeable style. It is accurate and well documented. The argument is more predictable than innovative, but it does not claim to be more than an accurate description of the three works it quotes. My main criticism is that the title of the thesis seems badly chosen. It is neither readily understandable, nor does it get fully elaborated, for example, it makes allusion to Michel Foucault's terminology when he is mentioned only in a short paragraph.

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Eberhard Wolff, *Einschneidende Massnahmen, Pockenschutzimpfung und traditionale Gesellschaft im Württemberg des frühen 19. Jahrhunderts*, Medizin, Gesellschaft und Geschichte, Beiheft 10, Stuttgart, Franz Steiner, 1998, pp. 524, DM/SFr 148.00 (3-515-06826-0).

The fight against smallpox is a successful story in medical history. The terrible infectious disease was a great threat and a major killer during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. It was, however, also